

DATELINE: RESTON, VIRGINIA #104
ALINA ZERANSKI

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A NEW TOWN THAT MAKES LIFE A LITTLE EASIER
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: RESTON, VIRGINIA -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, A REPORT PREPARED BY ALINA ZERANSKI ON A VISIT TO A SUBURBAN COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED ON A HUMAN SCALE.

NARR: FOR A LONG TIME, TOWNS IN AMERICA GREW UP AT RANDOM. BUILDINGS WENT UP WHEREVER SEEMED CONVENIENT. PEOPLE HAD EASY ACCESS TO THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THEY NEEDED. BUT WITH INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, THE SWELLING OF CITIES AND THE PROLIFERATION OF THE AUTOMOBILE, THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE. DEVELOPERS WITH BULLDOZERS LEVELED THE GROUND, UPROOTED THE TREES AND CREATED VAST HOUSING TRACTS, SO SIMILAR THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE COME FROM AN ASSEMBLY LINE. LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, THEY WERE OFTEN DISTANT FROM SERVICES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. EVERYONE BECAME DEPENDANT ON THE CAR. THIS SITUATION HAS LED TO THE LONGING FOR LIFE ON A MORE HUMAN SCALE.

THIRTY KILOMETERS WEST OF WASHINGTON, D.C., THERE IS A NEW TOWN BUILT TO FULFILL THIS NEED - RESTON, A VIRGINIA COMMUNITY, WHERE LIFE IS A LITTLE EASIER AND MORE PLEASANT THAN IN OTHER PLANNED COMMUNITIES.

NARR: FRANK STEINBAUER, VICE PRESIDENT OF GULF-RESTON, A LAND
(CONT'D) DEVELOPING FIRM, TELLS US HOW IT ALL BEGAN ...

TAPE: CUT ONE -- STEINBAUER

"RESTON WAS BEGUN AS A DREAM OF A MAN BY THE NAME OF ROBERT SIMON, A NEW YORK FINANCIER, WHO BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN THE COMMUNITY OF MEN AND MAN IN A COMMUNITY. AS SUCH, HE LOOKED FOR A PLACE WHERE HE COULD BUILD A COMMUNITY WHERE THE HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS COULD BE ARRANGED IN A WAY FOR A BETTER LIFE. ROBERT SIMON BEGAN IN 1961 BY CONTRACTING FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY. WORK BEGAN IN LATE 1962. THE FIRST RESIDENTS MOVED IN EARLY 1965."

NARR: PEOPLE CAME TO RESTON IN SEARCH OF THIS DREAM, ATTRACTED BY THE PROMISE OF THE NEW CONCEPT. TODAY, 28,000 PERSONS LIVE HERE IN SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPINGS. THE IDEA WAS TO INCORPORATE RESIDENTIAL, RECREATIONAL, COMMERCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT CENTERS WITHIN THE SAME COMMUNITY. FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE LAND WAS APPROPRIATED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, CREATING ABOUT 8,000 JOBS.

HERE IS THOMAS BURGESS, PRESIDENT OF THE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- BURGESS

"WHEN PEOPLE COME TO VISIT RESTON, AT FIRST, I THINK, THE THING THEY NOTICE, THE THING THEY COMMENT ABOUT ARE THE WOODS, THE TREES, THE HILLS, THE ENVIRONMENT OF RESTON, THEN THE ARCHITECTURE. BECAUSE IT IS A NEW TOWN, BECAUSE IT WAS PLANNED FROM THE START. THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT MADE TO TRY TO PLAN IN A LOT OF ADDITIONAL AMENITIES TO MAKE THINGS POSSIBLE IN RESTON AND IN A NEW TOWN THAT WERE NOT POSSIBLE OR ARE NOT POSSIBLE IN OUR VERY AUTOMOBILE ORIENTED SOCIETY - THE FACT THAT YOU CAN WALK TO GET TO THE SCHOOLS AND NEVER HAVE TO CROSS A ROAD, THE FACT THAT YOU CAN REALLY LIVE IN A PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOOD AND FIND A WIDE DIVERSITY OF KINDS OF HOUSING. THERE ARE SO MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL SELECTION OF FULFILLMENT."

NARR: IN RESTON, YOU CAN WALK TO THE VILLAGE SQUARE FOR A HAIRCUT, TO THE GROCERY STORE, TO BUY A BOOK, TO EAT IN A RESTAURANT, TO HAVE YOUR SHOES REPAIRED, OR TO CONSULT A TRAVEL AGENCY. SERVICES AND BUSINESSES ARE RIGHT THERE IN THE COMMUNITY.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BURGESS

"THE PLAN FOR RESTON CALLS FOR THE BASIC DESIGN OR BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS TO BE CONCENTRATED AROUND THE SERIES OF VILLAGE CENTERS. WHEN RESTON IS ULTIMATELY COMPLETED, THERE WILL BE FIVE VILLAGE CENTERS. EACH OF THESE AREAS OR VILLAGE CENTERS IS A SELF CONTAINED NEIGHBORHOOD. IT HAS ITS OWN SHOPS, ITS OWN STORES, IT HAS ITS OWN SCHOOLS, IT HAS ITS OWN RECREATIONAL AMENITIES."

NARR: IN RESTON, YOU FIND HOUSING IN A WIDE PRICE RANGE -- GARDEN CONDOMINIUM APARTMENTS, TOWNHOUSES AND SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN RUGGED REDWOOD, BRICK, STONE OR CLAPBOARD. SOME ARE MODERN, SOME TRADITIONAL, SOME IN THE SPANISH STYLE, SOME COLONIAL. YOU CAN BUY A HOUSE OR APARTMENT WITH A DOWN PAYMENT OF AS LITTLE AS FIVE OR TEN PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PRICE.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- BURGESS

"THE IDEA OF RESTON IS TO GROUP HOUSING TOGETHER OR TO CLUSTER HOUSING TOGETHER IN MUCH TIGHTER GROUPINGS SO THAT YOU HAVE HIGHER DENSITY IN THE LIVING AREAS. NOW, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO THAT IS THAT YOU PUT THE SAME NUMBER OF HOUSES IN RESTON THAT YOU WOULD IN ANY OTHER COMMUNITY BUT IN DOING THAT YOU FREE UP A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LAND THAT WOULD BE WASTED OTHERWISE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE TOTAL RESTON PLAN, THE 7,000 PLUS ACRES (ABOUT 2,900 HECTARES) OF THE WHOLE DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT 40 PERCENT, I THINK, OF THE TOTAL PLAN WHEN RESTON IS FINISHED WILL NEVER BE BUILT UPON. WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT IT IS AN AWFUL LOT OF OPEN WOODLAND AND SPACE, SOME OF WHICH CAN BE USED FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY."

NARR: THERE IS THE TWELVE HECTARE LAKE ANN FOR BOATING AND FISHING, A NATURE CENTER OF OVER 32 HECTARES, FORTY KILOMETERS OF LIGHTED WALKS AND BICYCLE PATHS, 17 SWIMMING POOLS, 36 TENNIS COURTS, AN INDOOR RIDING CENTER AND TWO RIDING STABLES, TWO GOLF COURSES, TWO MOVIE THEATERS, A SKI HILL AND PLENTY OF FIELDS FOR PLAYING.

THERE IS A BROAD RANGE OF AGE IN THE POPULATION. ABOUT TEN PERCENT ARE BLACK. RESTON HAS A VERY ACTIVE SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP AND FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY.

A LIVELY COMMUNITY THEATER GROUP OFFERS ENTERTAINMENT. WORKING MOTHERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SIX DAY-CARE CENTERS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS, SOME ORGANIZED AND RUN BY GROUPS OF PARENTS.

THERE ARE FIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND A HIGH SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION. VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OFFERS A VARIETY OF COURSES. EVERY PERSON BELONGS TO HIS CLUSTER ASSOCIATION AND TO THE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH OWNS AND ADMINISTERS ALL THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ABOUT 162 HECTARES OF WOODLANDS

AND PARKS. SEVEN YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF RESIDENTS ORGANIZED A NON-PROFIT COMMUTER BUS SERVICE WHICH, ALONGSIDE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, RUNS FIFTY NON-STOP BUSES DAILY TO WASHINGTON. COMBINING COUNTRY-LIVING PLEASURES WITH THE CONVENIENCE AND SOPHISTICATION OF THE CITY, WITHOUT POLLUTION AND NOISE, RESTON HAS BECOME A MODEL NEW TOWN.

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A NEW TOWN IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.